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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5212
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
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S E C R E T BERN 000375

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/31/2020
TAGS: SZ IR PARM PREL MNUC ETTC

SUBJECT: (S) SWISS FIRM'S DISCUSSIONS WITH UAE FIRM ON SALE
OF CONTROLLED EQUIPMENT FOR IRANIAN END-USER

REF: SECSTATE 81214

Classified By: Pol. Couns. R. Rorvig for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (S) Embassy presented reftel points on July 30 to Juergen Boehler, acting director for export control policy of the Swiss Secretariat for Economic Affairs. Boehler promised that the Swiss Government would look into the matter carefully. Boehler stated that the Swiss Company Liechti is a small family-owned firm in the Emmental region near Bern. It produces very high-tech milling machines. All of its products are subject to NSG oversight and require Swiss Government export licenses. Boehler said that he had not yet heard of Golden Triangle Testing Equipment L.L.C. in the UAE, but that Iran is using a variety of cut-outs and subterfuges to try to circumvent export controls.

¶2. (S) Boehler said that Switzerland has been very strict in enforcing UNSC sanctions against Tehran and that the Iranian Embassy in Bern had recently protested to Switzerland's regarding its refusal to provide spare parts for Swiss equipment that it had acquired by Iran years ago. Boehler said that Switzerland told the Iranians, that once they complied with UNSC demands, they would not face so many export control problems.

CONEWAY